

Black History Month February 2001

Creating and Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics, and Culture

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The theme for Black History Month 2001 is "Creating and Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics and Culture".

It is appropriate to begin the Black History Month celebration with information on Carter Godwin Woodson the originator of Black History Month.

Carter Godwin Woodson (1875-1950) Scholar

Carter Godwin Woodson was born December 9, 1875, in New Canton, Virginia. He received a B.Litt. degree from Berea College in 1903, a B.A. and an M.A. in 1907 and 1908 from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1912.



Known as the "Father of Modern Black History," Woodson was a passionate exponent of African-American economic self-sufficiency. In 1915 Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History). One year later, the organization began publishing the *Journal of Negro History*. In 1920 he founded Associated Publishers, Inc. and in 1921 he founded the *Negro History Bulletin*. In 1926 Woodson launched Negro History Week (now Black History Month) to promote the study of African-American history.

An historian, author, editor and teacher, Woodson served as dean of the Howard University School of Liberal Arts.

This information is provided by the Black Emphasis Program in Louisiana. For more information, contact Wanda Simmons, Black Emphasis Program Manager, at (318) 387-8683, ext. 1